

NAVY INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM QUALIFIES FOR SLOOP NATIONALS!

MAISA Sloop Championship in J/24's at USNA – 23-24 October

The co-ed intercollegiate team finishing second at the MAISA Sloop Championship and qualified for the Sloop Nationals by finishing in the top two. Navy was led by skipper 2/c John Keith, with crew 2/c Jameson Adler (trim), 2/c John Appelbaum (halyards/pit) and 3/c Gary Grimes (bow).

Saturday the sailors were met with super shifty wind at 4-12 knots out of the north. The course crossed from Bembe Beach to a windward mark just below Greenbury Point. Conditions were challenging and having boats converging on both lefties and righties at the weather mark at the same time required a great deal of patience from the competitors in order to succeed. The 10-boat fleet was filled with talent, with the top teams often finding themselves in 7th or 8th place at a given mark rounding. At the end of Saturday Navy was tied for 2nd with Hobart William and Smith Colleges (HWS). Old Dominion University (ODU) was winning by 4 points.

Sunday brought light air and drizzle. After the sailors sat out in the rain hoping to get some breeze, races were postponed until 1430 when a light northeasterly wind materialized. Two races were completed in very light conditions. Kings Point sailed well on Sunday to move from fourth overall to first, winning the regatta in the last race. Navy rounded the final leeward mark in second with ODU, the only team Navy needed to worry about, in eighth. Navy sailed the last beat conservatively and held onto second place up until 50 yards from the finish. They sat inching their way to the finish while ODU found a miracle puff and sailed from behind and below Navy to finish 2nd by just inches and pull into a tie in the overall standings. The coach boat was busy plugging numbers and the Navy boat was having a heart attack, but in the end Navy won the tie breaker with ODU to qualify for ICSA Sloop Nationals (Cornelius Shields Trophy) being held at Balboa Yacht Club in Governor's Cup 21's.

Final Results: Kings Point 32 points, Navy 34 points, ODU 34 points, HWS 49 points.



(l to r) skipper 2/c John Keith, 3/c Gary Grimes, 2/c John Appelbaum, 2/c Jameson Adler